

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are at issue. Claims 1-11 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanfield (5,371,340) in view of Feibus (5,685,257) and further in view of Raitanen et al (6,044,794). Claim 12 stands rejected based on 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanfield (5,371,340) in view of Feibus (5,685,257), Raitanen et al (6,044,794) and further in view of Graflind.

Specification:

The Examiner has suggested that element 48, page 4, line 28 is called a "coil". The applicant's version of the specification clearly has it called a "foil".

Claims

Claim 1 requires a fire retardant covering in the shape of a truncated circle folded in half. This shape shown in FIG.s 2 & 4 of the specification is vitally important in making an economical heated pet mat for igloo shaped doghouses, see FIG. 1. For more information please see the background section, page 1 of the specification. The Examiner suggests Raitanen shows a truncated circle and Feibus shows folding in half. However, Raitanen does not show a truncated circle. He shows an oval shape. There is no suggestion in any of the prior art references to fold the oval in half. The Examiner has clearly just picked out elements from the prior art references without any regard to their teaching. Stanfield has a top sheet 12 of molded plastic bonded to a lower sheet 14 (Col. 2, lines 41-45). Both parts are rectangular and the top sheet is relatively rigid (Col. 1, line 56). Stanfield is a heated mat. Feibus is a non-heated rectangular pet mat. Raitanen is an oval shaped suspended pet bed. None of these references discuss the problem of making a heated pet mat for an "igloo" or round pet house. The only logical combination of the references is a heated, suspended oval or rectangular pet mat. The combination clearly does not teach or suggest the invention of the present application. Claim 1 is clearly allowable.

Claims 2-5 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 6 further defines the shape of the mat. This is not shown or suggested in the prior art references.

Claim 7 requires a housing having a shape of a truncated semicircle. This shape shown in FIG.s 2 & 4 of the specification is vitally important in making an economical heated pet mat for igloo shaped doghouses, see FIG. 1. For more information please see the background section, page 1 of the specification. The Examiner suggests Raitanen shows a truncated circle and Feibus shows folding in half. However, Raitanen does not show a truncated circle. He shows an oval shape. There is no suggestion in any of the prior art references to fold the oval in half. The Examiner has clearly just picked out elements from the prior art references without any regard to their teaching. Stanfield has a top sheet 12 of molded plastic bonded to a lower sheet 14 (Col. 2, lines 41-45). Both parts are rectangular and the top sheet is relatively rigid (Col. 1, line 56). Stanfield is a heated mat. Feibus is a non-heated rectangular pet mat. Raitanen is an oval shaped suspended pet bed. None of these references discuss the problem of making a heated pet mat for an "igloo" or round pet house. The only logical combination of the references is a heated, suspended oval or rectangular pet mat. The combination clearly does not teach or suggest the invention of the present application. Claim 7 is clearly allowable.

Claims 8-11 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

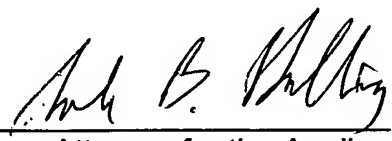
Claim 12 requires a fire retardant having a shape of a truncated semicircle. This shape shown in FIG.s 2 & 4 of the specification is vitally important in making an economical heated pet mat for igloo shaped doghouses, see FIG. 1. For more information please see the background section, page 1 of the specification. The Examiner suggests Raitanen shows a truncated circle and Feibus shows folding in half. However, Raitanen does not show a truncated circle. He shows an oval shape. There is no suggestion in any of the prior art references to fold the oval in half. The Examiner has clearly just picked out elements from the prior art references without any regard to their teaching. Stanfield has a top sheet 12 of molded plastic bonded to a lower sheet 14 (Col. 2, lines 41-45). Both parts are rectangular and the top sheet is relatively rigid (Col. 1, line 56). Stanfield is a heated mat. Feibus is a non-heated rectangular pet mat.

Raitanen is an oval shaped suspended pet bed. None of these references discuss the problem of making a heated pet mat for an "igloo" or round pet house. The only logical combination of the references is a heated, suspended oval or rectangular pet mat. The combination clearly does not teach or suggest the invention of the present application. Claim 12 is clearly allowable.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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